

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Leader and Cabinet 8 April 2010  
**AUTHOR/S:** Chief Executive / Corporate Manager (Community and Customer Services)

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### LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2008-2011: ANNUAL REFRESH

#### Purpose

1. To endorse the refreshed Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011, which has been discussed and agreed between the Cambridgeshire Together Board and the Government Office for the East of England (Go-East) and agreed by Cambridgeshire County Council.
2. This is not a key decision, however, is presented due to the requirement for the Council to have regard to the Local Area Agreement (LAA). It was first published in the December 2009 Forward Plan.

#### Background

3. Once agreed by the Secretary of State the responsible local authority (County Council) and its partner authorities must, in exercising its functions, have regard to every local improvement target specified in the local area agreement that relates to it.
4. The County Council may amend or remove a local improvement target with the consent of each partner authority to which the target relates and after consulting each other person to whom it relates.
5. Cambridgeshire Together adopted the LAA in June 2008. The LAA initially included 34 priority indicators and targets agreed with central government, 16 statutory targets on educational attainment, and five local priorities. An additional indicator (171 New Business Registration) was added in 2009.
6. At the time of signing off the agreement in June 2008, there were a number of gaps where targets had not been agreed for those priority indicators where baseline information was not available, and/or where final definitions were yet to be published by central government. It was then understood that 2008 would be a transitional year with a view to negotiate such targets at the annual refresh in 2009.
7. In 2009 a revised LAA was agreed with the Government Office for the East (Go-East), which contained a number of changes. In summary these were:
  - **Agreement of targets for performance indicators included in the LAA where performance data was not available** – included in this category were four indicators measured by the Place Survey (NI 1, 4, 5 and 17).
  - **Review of targets for areas affected by the economic downturn** – targets on housing (NI 154 and 155) were reviewed but not changed and resubmitted to government taking account of the impact of the economic downturn on partners' ability to deliver stretch targets on growth.
  - **Replacement of indicators (new indicator replacing an existing LAA indicator)** – a couple of changes were made to the LAA where an existing LAA

indicator and target was deleted from the agreement and replaced by a new priority indicator/target. NI 15 (most serious violent crime) was deleted from the LAA and replaced by NI 20 (assault with less serious injury); and NI 147 (care leavers in Education, Employment & Training (EET)) was deleted from the LAA and replaced by NI 117 (16-18 year olds Not in Education, Employment & Training (NEET)).

- **Proposed new indicators for inclusion in the LAA (in addition to existing ones)** – two new priority indicators were agreed for inclusion in the LAA under economic prosperity and safer and stronger communities respectively. NI 171 (new business registration rate), and NI 21 (dealing with local concerns about antisocial behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police). NI 21 was designated a local target.

8. In addition, the following additional changes were also reflected in the new LAA in 2009 regarding the statutory indicators on educational achievement due to changes in government policy. The following indicators were therefore removed from the national indicator set and LAAs:

- NI 74: proportion of pupils achieving level 5+ in both English and maths
- NI 83: proportion of pupils achieving level 5+ in science
- NI 95: proportion of pupils making 2 levels progress in English Key Stage 2-3
- NI 96: proportion of pupils making 2 levels progress in maths Key Stage 2-3
- NI 97: proportion of pupils making 2 levels progress in English Key Stage 3-4
- NI 98: proportion of pupils making 2 levels progress in maths Key Stage 3-4

### **Changes to the LAA Indicators and Targets for 2010**

9. Compared to 2009, the amount of changes to the LAA this year are much smaller, with the most important changes being to those targets related to employment and growth, i.e. those most affected by the economic downturn. Other changes are either purely technical or finalised now that sufficient baseline data has been collected during 2009.
10. **Review of targets for areas affected by the economic downturn** – targets for housing development have been reviewed and resubmitted to government taking account of the impact of the economic downturn on partners' ability to deliver stretch targets on growth. Specific indicators affected are NI 154 new homes and NI 155 affordable housing. In addition, targets related to economic prosperity (NI 152 – working age people on out of work benefits and NI 171 new business registration) have been reviewed.
11. **Technical adjustment to targets** – these relate to the Place Survey NIs (1, 4 and 17) and means the level of performance stretch between the baseline and the target remains the same.
12. **New targets to be set now baseline has been established** – these relate to NI 54 (services for disabled children and NI 125 independence for older people). Target can now be set on the basis that a baseline has been established.
13. The government has also offered Cambridgeshire the chance to remove NI 112 (Under 18 conception rate) from those targets included in the reward grant calculation. The recommendation from the Children and Young People's Partnership is that this target be removed. However, the NI remains part of the LAA.

14. Other minor adjustments have been made to NI 5 (overall satisfaction), NI17 (perceptions of antisocial behaviour), NI 32 (repeat incidents of domestic violence), NI 115 (substance misuse by young people) and NI 182 (satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulation services), but these do not form part of the formal refresh process with Go-East and government.
15. A table containing the new targets and other changes is set out in **Appendix A** of this report.

### Options

16. The options are to:
- (i) (a) endorse the refreshed Local Area Agreement, and  
(b) have regard to every local improvement target specified in it that relates to the Council, or
  - (ii) reject the refreshed Local Area Agreement, which could result in damaged relations with partners.

### Implications

17. Financial	The nature of the LAA is such that in return for achieving a range of targets, the County Council and its partners can attract up to £3.3m in reward money. A detailed review of current performance and its impact on attracting the maximum reward grant was recently carried out. Overall, it should be noted that Go-East remains pleased with progress against the LAA.
Legal	By signing off the LAA, the County Council is meeting its statutory obligations as the lead authority for LAAs in 2-tier areas.
Staffing	Relevant members of staff are aware of the refreshed targets and continue to work towards meeting those targets.
Risk Management	Cambridgeshire Together, the thematic partnerships and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) manage any risks associated with the LAA. A Risk Policy is being developed for the new joint Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire LSP, which will replace the current risk management arrangements in place for the South Cambridgeshire LSP.
Equal Opportunities	A large number of targets related to access and inclusion are included in the LAA. Those related to NI 112 (Under 18 conception rate), NI 54 (Services for disabled children) and NI 125 (Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation/intermediate care) have all been refreshed as a result of this year's review.

### Consultations

18. Individual thematic strategic partnerships and the Cambridgeshire Together Board have been involved in the refresh process.
19. On 23 February 2010 Cambridgeshire County Council resolved to agree:
- (a) the changes made to the LAA as part of the refresh, including changes to National Indicators (NIs) 152, 154, 155, 171, 1, 4, 17, 54 and 125, and

(b) to remove NI 112 from the reward grant calculation.

### **Effect on Strategic Aims**

20.	<b>Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.</b>
	LAA indicators and actions on NI 4 (% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality), for example, support this aim.
	<b>Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.</b>
	LAA indicators and actions on NI 16 (serious acquisitive crime rate), NI 17 (perceptions of antisocial behaviour), NI 32 (repeat incidents of domestic violence) and NI 56 (Obesity among primary school children in year 6), for example, support this aim.
	<b>Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.</b>
	All indicators and actions, including NI 5 (overall / general satisfaction with the local area) support this aim.
	<b>Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.</b>
	LAA indicators and actions on NI 163 (working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher) and NI 171 (new business registration), for example, support this aim.
	<b>Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.</b>
	LAA indicators and actions on NI 4 (% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality) and NI 7 (environment for a thriving third sector), for example, support this aim.

### **Recommendation**

21. It is recommended that Cabinet,
- (a) endorse the refreshed Local Area Agreement, and
  - (b) have regard to every local improvement target specified in it that relates to the Council.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Local Area Agreement 2008-11

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